

work they told me
Mr Burgess told them
i was taking care of
them and not to take me
away that i was crazy
they told them to tell me
to keep quite and quit
sign painting and they
would let me live in
jackson.

Mr Burgess told me to go
ahead and sign paint
that they would stand
by me they put a
ganster up to buy the hour
to get us out of the
naber hood Mr Burgess
lived there 35 years i
didnt want them to sell
it i seen wat they where
dueing to get them in a
mabor hood that no one
new them so they could

turned them on them with
they did

Mr Burgess rented a house
from a realstate Man by
The name of Best
a Block and a half from
The Cruger store on Lansing
Ave

They got a women that run
a rooming house on
Machinac St a cross from
Hart and Woodfield Lumber Co
i think her name is spider
she come out to the house
and told us that Madam
Kathren a forten teller turne
Mr Burgess in she got 2500
twenty five dollars for turn
him in i was dueing some
painting for her at The time
right after she called the
Swagon Chief Phelps come
in her place and talked to

her he got out of a baker
wagon. I never knew where
something going on when
I seen them. When I got
home Mrs Burgess told me
that women come out and
told her that Mr Burgess
wanted to see us before
he died that night he died
he was well and nothing
the matter with him.

Two days after he died Doctor
Vaugh told a friend of mine
to tell me if I didnt
get out of Jackson he
would kill me from the
discription my friend gave me
I knew him when I seen
him he come in there and
sived me up.

then they got Mrs Burgess
over in a house on
Lancing ave and was

putting men after her they
had her doped,
A street car conductor by
the name of McNickels
and his wife lived there
Machine gun Kelley and
his gang where all in
there when i got home
from work she was sitting
by the stove all doped up.
She said they told her to
tell me it wont be long
now i was working for
the Coca Cola Co the next
day i went in the office
i guess i was crying.
Mr Well the Manager asked
me wat was the matter
I told him there was a gang
of criminals out in a
house on Lansing av
and they where abusing
Mrs Burgess

he said say that Mrs Burges
is using dope i kin tell
a dope fiene in minute
i see none then i told
him about that gang
out in that house
he said ill fix that
he rote a letter to United
states attorney General in
Detroit Mich three days
after they come down
The Jackson Police Tiped
Machine gun Kelley and his
gun off they all cleared
out Mc Truckels and his
wife and left there furnit
then they come over to the
house and trun her on the
floor and abused her she
told me when i got home
from work The Jackson
Police and Sheriff miss
in formed the government
men

(12)

They turned her brother
against me and got him
to kick me out then
they broke her home up.
I got a room two doors
from the Coca Cola Co. the
second night it was there
Lieutenant Brownie and
Machine gun Kelley came tried
to take me out of the house
I was in bed my room was
at the top of the stairs
my door was open. I heard
him say to Mrs Simons
the lady I roomed with
isn't going up and get
that feller she told him
it was all right and
wouldn't let him take me
out there was a big car
around in the alley with
gangsters in it I got another
room on Taylor St.

With people by the name
of Earlie they come
there and turned them on
me then i left there and
got a roon at Mr Moore
across from the Coca Cola
Mrs Burgess come to me
crying and said she had
no thome and wanted me
to let her come and take
care of her i told her
to keep away from me that
the union gamsters would
dope her and get her to
call the Police on me
like they did i told her
the only way i could take
care of her was to marry
her she said all right
then the union gamsters
started to worked on
her i got a place on
railroad st they chased me

(14)

(1)

out of there i got a
Room on Blackstone st
the second night i was
there the scout car Police
and Machine gun Kelley
gan tried to take me
out of there this is the
Place where i seen his
wife the next day i got
another room i went back
to get my close Kelleys wife
followed me out to the
side walk and that tall
light hair killer that
got after me in Fort Wayne
Ind i went back to
my wife the next day i
got a nother place north
of town thru the wellfare
I dont no the name of the
street or the nans name
i was just there a week
they put him up to dope her

I couldnt get no signs to
paint so i run out of
money they had me cornered
i had no money to get
another place so i cleared
out and left my wife i
dont now what become of
her she was in the hands
of the gangsters god bless
her i got a job on a
farm near Osseo at
Mr Haskins Machine gun
Kelly followed me out there
they came around the house
2 nights sunday Mr
Haskins and his wife went
to church. they where gone
about 10 minutes when Machine
gun Inspector Kelly drove in
he had his little girl in his
arms for protection i told him
to get out he said he was
back to get me ^{coming}

well J. Edgar Hoover got
them

Doctor Vaughn

Madam Katherine Fortin Teller

Mrs. Snider

Labor leaders at the head
of the street car union of
Jackson and Chief Phelps
all arrested for the
murder of Mr William
Burgess

I want Sheriff Lovett and
all the sheriffs under him
ever Police under Phelps
Capt William Hansen of the
Michigan State Police and all
the men under him all
arrested for conspiracy and
working with
Machine gun Inspector Kelly
of Chicago Police force
to murder me and every
Labor leader in Jackson

and for blocking my
 mail to the Army General
 in Detroit Michigan
 I can prove every thing
 I have told you
 I aske you to give me a
 chance and brake up.
 This terrible thing the
 Black Legend and
 night Raiders.

William B. Kinsella
 Hillsdale Michigan

I am working for
 William Taylor on a farm
 3 miles north west of
 Hillsdale Michigan

W. B. Kinsella

[

]

8 & J

Edgmont, Pa.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington D. C.



(C)

JDM:SG

January 21, 1939

61-7398

Special Agent in Charge
Cleveland, Ohio

Re: ⁰Black Legion

Dear Sir:

RECORDED OF

61-7398-108
29

On June 6, 1935 there was received in the Laboratory one .45 caliber Colt automatic pistol upon which the serial #251440 was successfully restored as reported in Laboratory Report #4607. At that time this weapon was placed in the Laboratory's collection of firearms, but as it is no longer desired it is requested that the Laboratory be advised as to whether there is any reason why this gun may not be permanently disposed of.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

61-7398-169

INVESTIGATION

JAN 22 1939

MAILED
JAN 21 1939
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Cleveland, Ohio

January 25, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: BLACK LEGION

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated January 21, 1939 (Bureau file 61-7398), requesting information as to whether there is any reason for not disposing of .45 calibre Colt automatic pistol, serial number 251440.

A review of the Cleveland office file in the above entitled case reflects that on May 21, 1935 the aforementioned automatic pistol was delivered by [REDACTED] Ohio, to Special Agent C. E. Smith, at which time the serial number had been obliterated. The file further reflects that the War Department had been circularized and no record of this gun having been stolen was located.

On July 8, 1936 the Cleveland office received a communication, and again on July 27, 1936, from one [REDACTED] of Lima, Ohio, which communications were written on behalf of [REDACTED] endeavoring to have this gun returned to him, and on July 31, 1936 Mr. [REDACTED] was advised that unless he had a bill of sale showing that he had legitimately purchased this gun, it would not be returned to him. By letter dated August 18, 1936 Mr. [REDACTED] advised that he had purchased this gun from a former officer in the Black Legion and did not get a bill of sale or even a receipt.

From the foregoing this office can see no reason why this pistol should not be permanently disposed of.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

Very truly yours,

Al Rosen
AL ROSEN
Special Agent in Charge

WAC/rh
62-3

7-74-170
JAN 27 1939
FBI - CLEVELAND
ONE

KRM:MEC

RECORDED

61-7398-171

May 9, 1939

Mr. [REDACTED]
411 East Columbus Drive
Tampa, Florida

Dear Mr. Vert:

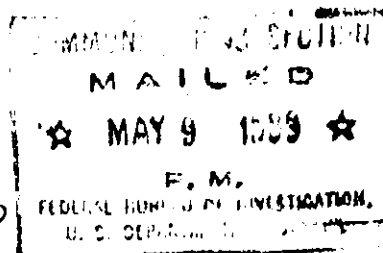
Please be advised that the Federal Bureau
of Investigation has no jurisdiction over the matters
referred to in your letter of April 29, 1939.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc-Miami

Mr. [REDACTED]
Mr. E. A.
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy



June 21, 1939

15

United States ...

Have received ... of ...

Have notified local authorities, but no results given. Would like to know what steps to take?

Letters recieved were written with typewriter, pictures were drawn with crayons, envelope was a Whitesfield North Carolina concern.

RECORDED

INDEXED

61-7398-191

Black Legion has given to the 30th of May to leave town. Ten people have recieved letters. All involved are United States citizens, voters, and prominent Americans. Answer at once by letter, telegram, or wire.

Wm
J
5/11/39

[REDACTED]

10

Tampa Jila

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

NOV 14 92 6 1 AM

NOTICE

CHIEF

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Cleveland, Ohio
February 9, 1940

CES:VLD
62-3

AIRMAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: BLACK LEGION, NIGHT RIDERS,
BULLET CLUB -- MISCELLANEOUS
CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Sir:

On February 9, 1940, Mr. ROBERT LARKIN, reporter for the Cleveland Press newspaper, personally called at this office and furnished acting Special Agent in Charge Frank L. Grubbs with a copy of a letter dated February 5, 1940, which letter was apparently sent by W. H. HAGEN, editor of the Lima News of Lima, Ohio, to DICK MAHER of the Cleveland Press. The letter reads as follows:

"Every once in a while a member of the profession calls on another for a little help. Such is the case.

We are being sued by Mr. Bert Effinger, alleged Black Legion Commander, for a \$250,000 note on a charge of criminal libel because of stories we printed.

Some years ago the F.B.I. chief in Cleveland investigated the Black Legion and at that time was given a Legion robe and a gun by one of the ex-members of the Legion.

I want to get in touch with the F.B.I. man and thought your federal beat man could help me out, or else check the office and see what file they have on Effinger and the Legion. Strange as it may seem I believe the Fed's name was Smith and he was in charge of the Cleveland office about 1934 to 1936.

1940

RECEIVED

Director

February 9, 1940

Anything you can do along this line will be appreciated as we want to build up a good defense against Effinger and give him the licking of his life."

Acting Special Agent in Charge Frank L. Grubbs advised Mr. LARKIN that it would be impossible to give him any information concerning this or any other matter, as authority for release of such information must of necessity come from the Bureau in Washington.

The attention of the Bureau is directed to the third and fourth paragraphs of the above-quoted letter, wherein editor HAGEN states he believes the "Fed's" name who investigated the Black Legion was Smith, and that the investigating agent obtained a gun and Legion robe from an ex-member.

In connection with the above, attention is directed to the report of Special Agent Clyde E. Smith dated May 24, 1935, in the above case which reflects that Agent Smith is apparently the individual referred to by Editor HAGEN, it also being noted on page six of reference report that one [REDACTED] an ex-Black Legion member, advised that Department of Justice agent by the name of SMITH was to be initiated into the order.

With reference to the gun and robe, it will be noted that a .45 caliber automatic pistol, the number of which was subsequently ascertained to be 251,440 by the technical laboratory as well as the fact that it was Government property, was obtained. However, the robe was apparently obtained by J. F. CORDREY, post office inspector at Lima, Ohio, and forwarded to his inspector-in-charge at Cincinnati, as reflected by an inclosure transmitted to the Cleveland office under date of April 22, 1935, by the Bureau.

For the further information of the Bureau, [REDACTED] an ex-member of the Legion who furnished information to this office as reflected by the reference report of Agent

Director

February 9, 1940

Smith, and one O. L. FOYD, whose name appears on page twelve of reference report and is listed as a member of the Legion, were at the time of instant investigation employed by the Lima News.

Very truly yours,

W. L. Listerman

W. L. Listerman
Special Agent in Charge

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Cleveland, Ohio

CEK:VLD

May 29, 1940

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: KERMIT WESTBAY
NPA Graduate
Police Department
Lima, Ohio

Dear Sir:

While in Lima, Ohio, recently Special Agent C. E. Kleinkauf of this office had occasion to contact Chief of Police J. C. GOODWIN in connection with a case involving VIRGIL H. EFFINGER who was formerly connected with the Black Legion. Agent Kleinkauf upon making inquiry of Chief GOODWIN as to any knowledge he might have of EFFINGER, was asked by GOODWIN, "Why don't you ask WESTBAY about the Black Legion?" Agent Kleinkauf inquired of GOODWIN what he meant by that remark, whereupon he advised that it had been reported to him by several individuals that WESTBAY was a former lieutenant in the Black Legion and had been quite active in this organization at the time it was flourishing in Lima, Ohio. Agent Kleinkauf inquired of GOODWIN if he had any information which would substantiate this report, and he advised that he did not, but that the information had come to him from quite a reliable source.

In connection with the above information it should be kept in mind that at the time Chief GOODWIN furnished this information he and WESTBAY were rival candidates for the position of chief of police, the appointment later falling to Chief GOODWIN. However, at the time he furnished this information Chief GOODWIN did not indicate that he was furnishing it because of any dislike or rivalry between him and WESTBAY, that it was quite a well-known fact around Lima and he thought it should be called to the attention of the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

W. L. Listerman
W. L. Listerman
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7-173

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JUN 1 1940	U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
THREE	FIVE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

July 20, 1940

Mr. [REDACTED]
Tiffin, Ohio

Dear Mr. Young:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter
dated July 8, 1940.

Your courtesy and interest in bringing this
information to my attention are indeed appreciated.
You may be assured your letter is being made a matter
of official record for appropriate attention.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

✓
A.M.T. Hurston
61-7518-174

61-7518-174

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



NOT IN DIRECTORY

Tiffin, Ohio
July 8, 40.

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-17

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 JUL 10 1940

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FIVE

To the Bureau of Federal Investigation

I have a "tip" for you, in case any of our
are sleuthing about this part of Ohio. ~~W. L. Reed~~
*Reed, a small brunette man of this city, un-
recently employed in the Home Restaurant, (w-
he still takes meals and goes) is at present
an active spy for the Black Legion, (very strong
in Findlay, Carey, Bucyrus, Tiffin, etc.) He was
aiding in the plot against O. A. Searfoss of Findlay
Ohio. A direct tip assures ^{us} of this, plus our own
suspicions. He said he knows where stolen goods
may be bought cheaply in Toledo. He was said
to have been implicated in white slavery three
months ago. He is said by several to have
peddled dope ^{for years} and was making mysterious trips
out of town, often, while working here. He made
those trips as late as April. He is a tea cup
reader ^(fortune teller) which we believe is only a "racket"
to cover him being in "queer" places, if true.
He rooms at 47 N. Monroe St., Tiffin, at present.
He formerly roomed at a questionable place
and admitted of lewd intoxicated women
coming there. He is quite foxy and beguiling.

100-40

Rev.

amt

281

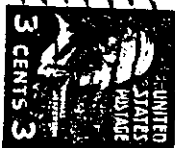
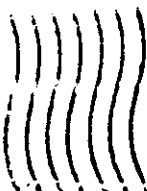
He has boasted of his outfit with big
"boats" telling how he spent his offers
for his conspiracy. He has boasted of the
stolen goods sold cheaply, before Mr. Searfoss
and others. If he were watched a bit
it might lead to some discoveries. He is
also quite a drinker and gambler.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tiffin, Ohio

(P.S. No reply
necessary)

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.



The information on matters pertaining to the activities of America, are now in process, and as I have stated, Mr. Long, to appear as President of the matter. In this case, the name of David Kennedy, and as far as the matter of the name, the name of the person whose name will not be seen on this.

There will be another meeting tomorrow night of this group, and the expected crowd will be about 50 men from all over the State. They are becoming very active now in the Shops, on organizing, and are doing quite well at it, but are being careful to keep their membership as quiet as possible, until they really get under way.

On the so termed new Black Legion matter, I find that, Spolanski has been trying to talk to several men in regards to it, and they have apparently given him some information that lead him to believe they were very active again, but I find that most of these were old members, and as stated before, they are radicals in this direction. The men supposed to be connected with the rehased outfit, are as follows:

- Tom Vose, old stand by and pal of Nat Ganley, picked up during last clean up.
- Clarence Prince, former member.
- Art Lutt, " "
- Simon Patton, " " Known as Red, and a bad actor.
- Ruddy Wellman, " " a number 1 'Screwball'.
- ? Burley, " " Packard Employee.

Wellman was explained to me in just the language used above, and is not credited with too much brains.

Do not hear much of their activities anywhere, but Spolanski says they are quite active again, and meet frequently.

From Windsor Ont., learn that Tim Buck, is doing a great deal of successful organizing, under the name of the Workers Union, both Hungarian and Ukranian. He is avoiding the name of 'Communist', as much as possible for the present time, but the above two units meet every Thursday night, on Drouillard Rd. in East Windsor, and they are apparently having some pretty good sized meetings, as well as a lot of Social functions that are very well attended, and have quite a number from Detroit Present also.

They are very careful with their speeches in public, but are all for Tim Buck, and his principles. Most of the meetings are in the Ukranian Hall.

Immerman, mentioned before, as the man in charge of plant protection for the Army Air Corp., started out by calling in some men who were Red sympathizers, and started out as if he meant to go something out it, but all of a sudden he stopped, and has permitted a committeeman to be elected, a big colored man by the name of Barnes, who is one of the most rabid Reds in the Plant.

Machetti, is also moving forward in the Committee direction, and it looks like the Reds are going to hold sway out there again in spite of the election recently that defeated their power at that time.

Immerman had plenty of proof of the fact; Dwight Warren, was causing plenty of trouble out there, and also stirring up the Negroes to trouble he did nothing about it.

Five

San Francisco, California
[Redacted]

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Washington D.C.

56018

Dear Mr Hoover:

I know your a terribly busy man right now but please take time to give this second thought.

First of all, more than anything else I would adore an autographed photo of you, I admire you almost as much as Mr. President.

Second, Rumors here that have gone on for months say that there is a "club off of Nazi sympathizers", called the Black Legion located at Ferndale California. This little town is approx. 10 miles south-west of Eureka California, of course its only rumor but its been going on so long there must be some truth in it. Couldent the F.B.I. at San Francisco investigate it anyway? I do hope that this does help catch these "wops" (you & are all Italians).

Please dont forget the picture of your mother.

Aug 25/25
8/20/25
8/18/25
8/15/42
[Handwritten notes and signatures]

Very Sincerely,
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

61-7598-174
AUG 11 1942
[FBI stamp and file number]

GRI: 2
51-4-3076-1

August 23, 1942

RECORDED
INDEXED
Mrs. [REDACTED]
Post Office
Fortuna, California

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

Your letter postmarked August 4, 1942, has been received in the absence of Mr. Hoover. Its contents will be called to the Director's attention upon his return.

Sincerely yours,

Helen F. Candy
Secretary

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 8
AUG 23 1942 P.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED-DIRECTOR
F B I
AUG 25 7 07 PM '42
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Mrs.

[REDACTED]
Gortuna, California



Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Washington
D.C.

(COPY)

Fortuna California
c/o [REDACTED]

Box [REDACTED]

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr Hoover:

I know your a terribly busy man right now but please take time to give this a second thought.

First of all, more than anything else I would adore an autographed photo of you. I admire you almost as much as Mr. President.

Second, Rumors here that have gone on for months say that there is a club affair of "nazi symphiziers" called the Black Legion located at Ferndale California. This little town is approx. 10 miles south west of Eureka California. Of course its only rumors, but its been going on so long there must be some truth in it. Couldent the FBI at San Francisco investigate it anyway? I do hope that this does help catch thoes "wops" (yes, they are all Itilains).

Please dont forget the picture if your not too busy.

Very Sincerely yours,

/s MRS. [REDACTED]

RECEIVED

September 15, 1942

JCN:klb

61-1528-177X1

94-4-5929-1

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

RE: BLACK LEGION;
INTERNAL SECURITY - I.

Dear Sir:

For your information and possible assistance in conducting an investigation of the above captioned organization there are transmitted two copies of a letter received by the Bureau from Mrs. [REDACTED] Box [REDACTED] Fortuna, California.

It is desired that a preliminary investigation be conducted to ascertain if the above captioned organization actually exists and if it is engaged in activities detrimental to the internal security of the United States.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

Enclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 10
SEP 15 1942 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
SEP 15 1942
FBI

August 25, 1942

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

Re: Mrs. [REDACTED]
c/o [REDACTED]
Post Office
Fortuna, California
RESEARCH

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter received at the Bureau from Mrs. [REDACTED] and it is desired that you have an Agent interview her as soon as possible to obtain full information concerning the Black Legion at Fortuna, California. Incidental to this inquiry your office should ascertain the identity, background and reputation of the above named individual. This matter should be given your prompt attention and your reply should be furnished the Bureau by air mail special delivery letter.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 8

★ SEP 8 1942 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 1

★ AUG 25 1942 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

44-1398-174X2

INDEXED

RECORDED
INDEXED

44-1398-174X2

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

San Francisco, California
September 14, 1942

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: MRS. [REDACTED]
c/o MR [REDACTED]
Post Office [REDACTED]
Fortuna, California
RESEARCH

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to letters from the Director dated August 25, 1942 and September 8, 1942 respecting investigation in the above entitled matter. 61-7398-114X2

It is to be noted that this matter is being given immediate attention by this office and that an Air Mail, Special Delivery letter will be forwarded by September 24, 1942.



OTM:wap
94-131
AMSD

6 SEP 30 1942

Very truly yours,
INDEXED

N. J. L. PIEPER, Jr.
Special Agent in Charge

20 SEP 22 1942

McGUIRE

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
San Francisco, California
October 2, 1942

AIRMAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: MRS. [REDACTED]
c/o Mr. [REDACTED]
Post Office [REDACTED]
Fortuna, California
RESEARCH

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letters dated August 25, 1942 and September 8, 1942 requesting that the above individual be interviewed for full information concerning the Black Legion at Ferndale, California. It was further requested that the identity, background and reputation of the above named individual be ascertained.

On September 17, 1942, MRS. [REDACTED] Fortuna, California advised that all her information in the matter had been received through her mother, MRS. [REDACTED] of the same address.

MRS. [REDACTED] recalled that shortly after the war broke out in December, one of her boarders, a RALPH LA COSTA, had told her that earlier in the fall of 1941 he had been invited to join a "secret organization" in Ferndale; that the organization consisted mostly of Portuguese and that it had "something to do with the war." She further recalled that LA COSTA had been asked why he had not "turned the matter in", and had replied that if the organization was as dangerous as he thought it was, he would be afraid to say anything about them. The name Black Legion had not been used by him and MRS. [REDACTED] could not recall how it had come into the picture.

MRS. [REDACTED] said that she had not seen LA COSTA since May, but believed him to be in the Merchant Marine. She could give no information as to what individuals were involved in the solicitations for membership, nor did she know any of LA COSTA'S associates in the Ferndale area. A picture of LA COSTA together with names of some of his Fortuna associates were given to interviewing agents.

A discreet investigation will be instituted respecting activities of Portuguese in the Ferndale area, although it is to be noted that a previous inquiry as to possible activity among the Portuguese in that area was made of the City Marshal at Ferndale with negative results.

COPY IN FILE

WHO BACKS THE BLACK LEGION?

★ WHO ARE THE BLACK LEGIONAIRES ?

★ WHAT IS THEIR OBJECT ?

How can we stamp them out?

These and many other points will
be discussed by good speakers!

on

at

FRIDAY 7.30 pm

JULY 31ST

BEWICK AND

SHOEMAKER

Auspices: Ward 19 Branch, Communist Party

NOT RECORDED

61-7398-



I R E
BLACK LEGION
IS
E X P O S E D !

....But, to really "get in on the ground floor" of the exposure, it is not enough to read the Detroit Daily press, which in conspiracy with the Republican and Democratic politicians, deliberately "cover-up" and "whitewash" the real backers of the BLACK LEGION!

To Read the TRUTH about the BLACK LEGION, follow the special articles in the

SUNDAY WORKER
(America's Biggest and Best Labor Weekly)

Single Copy 5¢
One Year subscription \$2.00

Follow JOHN L. SPIVAK'S Sensational disclosures of the
"REAL BACKERS OF THE BLACK LEGION" in the weekly NEW MASSES ---
(On Sale at all Downtown Newsstands).

Single copies 15¢; One year subscription \$4.50

OTHER TIMELY READING RELATING TO FASCISM AND THE BLACK LEGION:

Hearst, Labor Enemy Number #1	(pamphlet)	\$.03
The World Gone Mad	(pamphlet)02
In the Dungeons of Mussolini	(pamphlet)05
Behind the Swastika	(pamphlet)05
The Truth of Father Coughlin	(pamphlet)05
Imperial Hearst		2.75
Hearst, Lord of San Simeon		3.00
Europe Under the Terror (John L. Spivak's latest)		2.50

S P E C I A L O F F E R '...!'

Any one of the following nine \$2.00 to \$3.00 books can be had for only 50¢ together with a year's subscription to the SUNDAY WORKER (\$2.00). Use the subscription blank on the enclosed folder:

LENIN by Ralph Fox
BELOMOR by Maxim Gorky
A WORLD TO WIN by Jack Conroy

STALIN by Henri Harbusse
SEEDS OF TOMORROW by Sholekov
CHINESE DESTINIES by Agnes Smedley

WHERE THE GHETTO ENDS by Leon Dennen
THE GREEN CORN REBELLION by William Cunningham
THE NATURE OF THE CAPITALIST CRISIS by John Strachey

NOT RECORDED

61-43-9

UCO CARUSI
Executive Assistant to The
Attorney General

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 3, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CARUSI

I talked to Kimball Flaccus on the telephone. He introduced his friend, Ensign Conklin who is the person mentioned in his letter. He heads the War Orientation Unit of the Educational Services Section of the "avy.

He came in and talked to me about what he knows of the Ku Klux Klan in Detroit. He has no information as to whether or not. His background is:

1. Born, Wyandotte, Michigan
2. School, Wayne University
3. Worked summers 1934-1936 on a printers gang. Was told at that time that it would be a "good idea" to join the Black Legion.
4. Was advised by his father not to join.

He believes there are about 200 to 300 members of the Black Legion in Wyandotte, that it is a fertile field for missionaries of a good or bad type and from his observation they have no connection with Detroit operations. He calls them a lunatic fringe but he has no late information. He is just anxious to be helpful and feels that he could get information if we wanted him to.

He brought the attached material from Lt. Flaccus which is of no particular usefulness to us, I think.

P. H. C.

The whole business might be referred to the F. B. I. for as it is word of the A. G. is not interested.

61-9568-175

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 10 1943
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

ORIGINAL FILED IN



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Suite 1729 - 111 Sutter Street
San Francisco, California
October 6, 1943

Director, FBI

RE: BLACK LEGION
SECURITY MATTER - I
Bureau File 94-4-5929

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated 9/15/42, enclosing information from a Mrs. [REDACTED] Fortuna, California, that an organization, possibly subversive, known as the BLACK LEGION, was located at Ferndale, California.

An officer of the California Highway Patrol interviewed Mrs. [REDACTED] at which time she stated that the name BLACK LEGION was a figment of her imagination, and that she had not heard anyone else call the alleged group by that name. It is noted that Mrs. [REDACTED] was unable to furnish any further information regarding the group other than that her information had come from a RALPH LA COSTA, who had said that "He was asked to join a society by three men from Ferndale, but that he was afraid to join the society." (Name or type of society not known.) Attempts to locate Mr. LA COSTA have been negative.

A continuous investigation by the California Highway Patrol in the vicinity of Ferndale, California, reflected that although there had been people gathering occasionally at various homes in Ferndale in 1942, there did not seem to be nearly as many gatherings in 1943. The opinion was rendered by informants of the Highway Patrol that these might have been card parties or just plain social gatherings.

HERBERT MAAS, Minister of St. Marks's Lutheran Church, Ferndale, informed the California Highway Patrol that the members of the church have an insurance plan which is called the "AL Insurance Company" or "Associated Lutheran Insurance Company". There is a meeting of this insurance group held every quarter. The meetings are held at the homes of members the first Tuesday after the 15th of the first month of every quarter. The names of various people, who informants stated gathered together occasionally, were presented to Mr. MAAS, and he said that nearly all of these people belonged to the St. Marks' Lutheran Church and attended these insurance meetings. It is noted that if there were any people meeting as a group which could possibly be identified as being similar to the alleged subversive group known as the BLACK LEGION these people would be the most



DE INDEXED
DATE: 10 27

RECORDED

INDEXED

OCT 12 1943

FIVE

logical contenders for that title.

Inasmuch as a thorough investigation of instant report has failed to reflect that there is any organization known as the BLACK LEGION and further that no such type of organization is known to be engaged in subversive activities in or about the Ferndale, California, area, this case is being closed.

Very truly yours,

N. J. L. Pieper

N. J. L. PIEPER
Special Agent in Charge

PES:ER
62-1491

SAY JONES JOINED THE BLACK LEGION

Witnesses Tell Senators That
They Helped Induct Him—
Ohioan Denies Charge

WASHINGTON, July 7 (AP)—Two members of the Black Legion swore today that Representative Robert F. Jones, Republican, of Ohio, joined the hooded organization at a flashlight ceremony in 1938, but Mr. Jones denied that he had and six character witnesses lauded him as a fair and tolerant man.

The conflicting testimony came at a Senate subcommittee hearing on President Truman's nomination of Mr. Jones to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission.

One of the self-described Black Legion members was Frank A. Barber, police chief of Beaver Dam, Ohio. He testified that he was committed to a hospital for the insane for sixty-one days in 1922, but he said that this was the result of a "frame-up." He acknowledged also that he once was jailed for "shooting a guy" in Hammond, Ill. The other witness who said that Mr. Jones became a member of the legion was Glenn E. Webb of Lima, Ohio. He testified that he (the witness) in 1942 forged nineteen payroll checks totaling \$653.86. Senators questioned the witnesses closely on their own records.

An affidavit produced by Senator Owen Brewster, Republican, of Maine, stated that still another adverse witness, Virgil Effinger of Lima, was convicted of contempt of court in 1940 and sentenced to two months in jail and ordered to pay a \$200 fine.

Before the subcommittee ended its open sessions, Mr. Jones took the stand to assert for the second time that he had not joined the legion.

"There is absolutely no tie-up by me with any organizations that are subversive," Mr. Jones said. He told the subcommittee that he believed its members had "properly discounted" what he called efforts by Drew Pearson, the columnist, "to smear me."

Mr. Pearson has asserted that Mr. Jones joined the Black Legion, and that his father was a member of the Ku Klux Klan. Mr. Jones also has denied the latter charge.

Messrs. Barber and Webb said that they helped induct Mr. Jones into the legion in 1938. Mr. Barber said that he administered the preliminary oath of the legion to Mr. Jones at a ceremony which took place at night on a farm near Lima. He described the legion as one of the degrees of the Ku Klux Klan.

Mr. Webb testified that he gave the final oath as a gun was held at Mr. Jones' back. This, he added, was part of the ritual.

Mr. Effinger acknowledged that he signed an affidavit stating that he saw Mr. Jones inducted, but he said on the stand he could not remember whether the member of Congress joined. Mr. Effinger testified that he was commander of the Black Legion in Lima.

Among the character witnesses who appeared in support of Mr. Jones was the Rev. David F. Helms, pastor of the Methodist church the representative attends in Lima. He said that in area of the Congressional district Mr.

Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Ladd.....
Mr. Nichols.....
Mr. Rosen.....
Mr. Tracy.....
Mr. Egan.....
Mr. Gurnea.....
Mr. Harbo.....
Mr. Mohr.....
Mr. Pennington.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
Mr. Nease.....
Miss Gandy.....

Jones represents "where the Catholic vote is strong," the House member had "always run ahead of the ticket."

Rollin R. Moxley of Lima said that Mr. Jones had proved to his satisfaction and 90 per cent of the Negroes in Lima that he was not a member of the Black Legion.

The Rev. John B. Tenny of Washington said that in his dealings with Mr. Jones in connection with the work of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, the representative "impressed me as being a gentleman and fair-minded."

The other character witnesses were Bernard Brender, a Lima merchant; Frank Lange of Piqua, Ohio, and the Rev. Charles O. Dutton of Takoma Park, Md., a college classmate of Mr. Jones.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED
EX-55
G.I.R.

11-7378-A

207459

B

JUL 14 1947

This is a clipping from
page 2 of the
New York Times for

7-8-47

Clipped at the Ser
Government

60 AUG 4 1947

Black Legion Conduct in Depression Recall Truman Checking on Deserting Democrats

By Drew Pearson

Let's We Forget—Some Congressmen seem apathetic about my allegation that their colleague, Representative Robert



Jones

is a garter snake.

(Representative Jones denied emphatically on Tuesday that he was ever a member of the Black Legion—Editor's Note.)

Black Legion started after Ku Klux Klan got smoked out by too much publicity but proved it was a good money racket . . . Dr. William Shepherd, Bellaire, Ohio, health commissioner, explains about the legion's origin as follows: "I was exalted cyclops of KKK but withdrew when Grand Dragon Colescott objected to my wearing a black robe. So I organized a 'black guard' in Ohio . . . Pretty soon the darn thing grew by leaps and bounds," continued Dr. Shepherd. "Everybody round here wanted to be one of my blacks, and started organizing black groups. You have to have mystery in a fraternal thing to keep it alive. The folks eat it up."

Came the Depression. With jobs scarce, the Black Legion got out of hand. Many labor people joined and escorted small businessmen before eerie night meetings to threaten them with fires or bodily harm if they discharged men—joining the Black Legion was one way to keep your job . . . In Detroit, however, industrialists were accused of using the Black Legion as vigilantes to combat organized labor . . . Heart of Ohio's Black Legion was Lima, home of Representative Jones, now nominated to the all-important Federal Communications Commission . . . Also living in Lima is former National Commander Virgil H. Effinger, who signed an affidavit in 1938 naming Jones as a Black Legionnaire . . . Another legionnaire, Glenn E. Webb, then on the Black Legion initiating crew, swears Jones knelt before him on a farm outside Lima, took the oath of membership . . . Ceremony occurred in 1935 when the legion was riding the crest

Organized Intolerance—Say Newark's New York World-Telegram has described it: "The Black Legion's crimes are part of a larger picture of intolerance in America. They are cut from the same picture as anti-Red foreys into campuses, vigilante and lynching mobs, antilabor terrorism and other manifestations of special-interest racketeering wrapped up in the garb of patriotism."

Do Farmers Strike?

Farm Bureau President Ed O'Neal, long one of the smoothest lobbyists at the Capitol, was almost, but not quite, set back on his heels last week by young Representative Walter Huber of Akron, Ohio, during O'Neal's testimony before the Joint Congressional Committee on the Economic Report.

"The District Line" by Bill Gold is being suspended during Bill's vacation.

Huber, who is developing into a skillful debater, stopped O'Neal to take up the question of strikes, the farm chieftain having said he might favor an even more drastic labor measure than the Taft-Hartley Bill. "How then do you justify the strike having been called by the meat-producing farmers last fall?" Huber asked the strike-hating O'Neal.

O'Neal replied that "it was not any strike."

"They just wouldn't get out meat, is that it?" Huber persisted.

"The law of supply and demand ruled," said O'Neal.

"If you can compel the workman to sell his labor for a certain price under certain conditions," persisted the Ohio Congressman, "then could you not compel the farmer to sell his produce, which he produces through his sweat, with the help of God and nature, for a certain price also?"

"I say we believe in collective bargaining; sure we do," O'Neal replied.

Here Committee Chairman, Senator Bob Taft, jumped in apprehensively to protest: "There is nothing in this bill (the Taft-Hartley bill) that makes any man work for anything that he does not agree to work for, except that he continues to work for 60 days after his contract ends."

"The Government sets up the wages for which he should work," said Huber.

"No," Taft replied, "there is only a 60-day period in there in a case where the whole Nation is affected by an industry. He has to continue the status quo for 60 days."

O'Neal then spoke of the long hours worked by farmers, and their anger about "how the other fellow works."

"Well," replied Huber, "I represent three rural counties and I have the highest opinion in the world for farmers and industry. But I also found some farmers who worked part time in our factories in addition to taking care of their own work."

Copyright 1947 The Bell Syndicate, Inc.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Pennington _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

G. I. R. E

RECORDED

INDEXED

EX-53

46 JUL 15 1947

JUL 3 1947

WASHINGTON POST
Page 1

Jones, FCC Appointee, Denies Race Prejudice Charge by Pearson

By the Associated Press

Representative Jones, Republican of Ohio, yesterday denied charges by Drew Pearson that he had "bigoted, anti-Catholic, anti-Jewish affiliations."

Mr. Pearson, newspaper columnist and radio commentator, testified before a Senate Commerce subcommittee that Mr. Jones was a member of the Black Legion and that his father was an organizer for the Ku Klux Klan.

Mr. Pearson also said that Mr. Jones' father took him to Klan meetings as a boy and "introduced him as the youngest member of the Klan." Mr. Pearson further alleged that Representative Jones once sent greetings to Gerald L. K. Smith for publication in the "Cross and Flag," Smith's magazine.

Says Father Fought Klan.

Mr. Jones testified that neither he nor his father ever belonged to the Klan, that his father fought the organization and was "labelled a Catholic sympathizer."

He said that he had never belonged to the Black Legion, but on the contrary had fought it, and that he had sent no greetings to Smith.

Mr. Pearson said speeches made by Mr. Jones had been quoted in "subversive" publications.

Senator Brewster, Republican, of Maine, chairman of the subcommittee, remarked:

"If you go on that basis you can't convict anybody of anything."

To Meet Thursday.

The subcommittee met in closed session yesterday afternoon, discussed the testimony and arranged to meet again next Thursday for a possible decision.

Chairman Brewster explained that Senator Capehart, Republican, of Indiana, had to be away, meanwhile, and that the subcommittee also wanted to see an affidavit which Mr. Pearson had promised to deliver in support of his contention that Mr. Jones was a member of the Black Legion.

Mr. Jones was nominated to the FCC June 18, the same day the White House withdrew the reappointment of Ray C. Wakefield to the commission.

A dispatch to The Star from Lima, Ohio, last night quoted a former officer of the Black Legion as also denying that Representative Jones ever was a member. It read as follows:

"Virgil H. (Bert) Effinger, one-time officer of the Black Legion, told the Lima News tonight that Congressman Robert F. Jones of Lima never was a member of the so-called Black Legion." Effinger identified himself as a former local commander of the organization, but denied he ever was national commander. He added that he is not now a member."

Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clerk
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

G.I.R.S.

RECORDED

INDEXED

EX-57

61-7378-1
JUL 14 1947

JUN 28 1947

WASHINGTON STAR
Page

JUL 22 1947

301

Mr. E. A. Tamm
 Mr. Clegg
 Mr. Glavin
 Mr. Ladd
 Mr. Nichols
 Mr. Rosen
 Mr. Tracy
 Mr. Carson
 Mr. Egan
 Mr. Gurnea
 Mr. Harbo
 Mr. Hendon
 Mr. Jones
 Mr. Pennington
 Mr. Quinn Tamm
 Mr. Nease
 Miss Gandy

Pearson Repeats Black Legion Charge Against Jones in Letter to Sen. White

Drew Pearson, Washington columnist and broadcaster, yesterday sent to Senator Wallace H. White, chairman of the Interstate Commerce Committee, a letter protesting confirmation of Representative Robert F. Jones (R., Ohio) as a member of the Federal Communications Commission.

In testimony before the committee last Friday, Pearson alleged that the Congressman was a member of the Black Legion. The Ohioan promptly branded the charge as a lie.

In his letter to Senator White, Pearson repeated the allegation he made to the committee and submitted in support of it an affidavit signed by one Virgil H. Effinger. In a sworn statement, Effinger, a resident of Lima, Ohio, alleged that he was present at a meeting where Representative Jones took an oath as an applicant for membership in a secret society to which Pearson accused the Congressman of belonging. Pearson also asserted

that one Glenn E. Webb of Lima called upon the Senate committee was available to testify to some of the columnist's allegations. He requested the FBI to investigate the charges.

RECORDED
 INDEXED

74 JUL 14 1947

EX-64

JUN 29 1947
 WASHINGTON POST
 Page 14 M

302

Rep. Jones Calls Pearson a Liar

Columnist Testifies FCC Nominee Is 'Possibly' Klansman

By the United Press

Representative Robert F. Jones (R., Ohio) yesterday denied as "un-tempered" charges by columnist Drew Pearson that he was a member of the Black Legion and a member in that type of organization.

The heated exchange highlighted a Senate Commerce subcommittee's hearing on Jones' nomination to succeed Ray C. Wakefield to a seven-year term on the Federal Communications Commission.

Pearson expressed "doubt" that Jones, as an FCC member, would give him and his associates a fair hearing on their application for a Baltimore radio station license. He said he based the statement on "evidence" from Jones' own Lima, Ohio, district.

Alleges Link With Smith

Jones, he said, "has been personally identified with one of the most anti-Semitic, Fascist-inclined figures in this country—namely, Gerald L. K. Smith."

Furthermore, he said, while he had no personal knowledge that Jones was a Klansman, his information was that the Congressman's father in the early 20's had introduced his son to others as "the youngest member of the Ku Klux Klan."

"I regret to make the even more serious charge that the evidence I have received . . . is that he was a member of an equally bigoted organization — anti-Catholic and anti-Jewish — namely, the Black Legion."

Jones sat quietly in the back of the hearing room listening to Pearson's testimony. When Chairman Owen Brewster (R., Me.) offered him time to prepare an answer, Jones said he was ready now.

"Unmitigated" Lies

As soon as he had taken his oath, he snapped:

"I brand these statements by Drew Pearson as unmitigated lies."

He said he had never been a member of the Klan and that his father, far from being a Klansman, actually was persecuted by its members because he refused to join.

"I was a foe of the Black Legion," he continued. "Nothing in my public or private life would lead me to recommend myself to my being a member of the Black Legion and a member in that type of organization."

Pearson conceded under questioning by Senator Homer E. Capehart (R., Ind.) that some of his information came from Francis Durbin, a Lima Democrat whom Capehart described as Jones' "political enemy."

Jones told the committee he knew nothing about the White House "switchover" in which President Truman withdrew Wakefield's nomination for reappointment and substituted his name instead.

Pearson Suggests "Answer"

But Pearson had what he thought might be part of the answer.

He recalled, under prompting, by Brewster, that he reported in a recent column that Wakefield was dropped after he voted to reject a radio station application from Robert Bartley, a nephew of House Democratic Leader Sam Rayburn (Tex.).

"As much as I love Sam Rayburn," he said, "I think they (the two events) were associated."

He said Wakefield also voted against an application for a Cincinnati radio station which had been filed by Leonard Reinsch, the President's radio coach.

"But I don't know if that had anything to do with it or not," he mused.

Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Pennington _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

G.L.R. 5

RECORDED

JUL 14 1947

16

JUN 28 1947

WASHINGTON POST
Page 2

61-7398 -177, 178, 179,

CHANGED TO

157-9079-497X, 497X1, 512X,

OCT 23 1969

Jw / JKS

C

61-7398-NR 5/5/69
CHANGED TO
157-9079-NR

OCT 23 1969

Jue / JKS

JFM:PM

44-635-2

June 25, 1929.

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

LUNNING

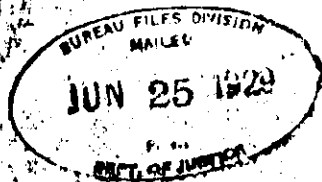
There is transmitted, attached hereto, a photostatic copy of a newspaper clipping entitled "Riders Lash St. Clairsville Man," together with a photostatic copy of a newspaper clipping entitled "Proof County Has Night Rider Organization Reported in Hands of Prosecuting Attorney."

This matter is being referred to you for your information and such instructions as you may care to issue in the premises.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Enc. 624357



RECORDED & INDEXED

44-114-1	
STIGATION	
JUN 26 1929 A.M.	
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	
FILE	

PROOF COUNTY HAS NIGHT RIDER ORGANIZATION REPORTED IN HANDS OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Photographs, letterheads, letters and other statements that prove the existence of a Night Rider organization in Belmont county will be presented to the grand jury convening Tuesday, according to a statement made today by Prosecutor George C. McKelvey in connection with the attack by nine robed persons on Lawrence Van Horne of St. Clairsville near the Hutchinson school house north of the county seat Wednesday night. The evidence came to the prosecutor by mail yesterday. Its source was not indicated by the markings on the envelope. The prosecutor, after examining the contents, locked the envelope in his safe for later use and refused to discuss what it contains. Included were pictures of authorization issued by a Columbus detective agency and badges worn by Klansmen.

Photos of Alleged Leaders

Letters written by a Bellaire physician and which are said to indicate that a Night Rider organization existed in Bellaire, Morristown, Barton, Neffs and Key districts a few years ago are included as are photographs of the physician and of a woman residing near St. Clairsville, both in Klan regalia. The physician is reputed to have been the head of the Ku Klux Klan in the county and woman is said to have been similarly honored by the members of her sex allied with the organization.

Various Ohio towns, including Newark, Zanesville and Youngstown are mentioned in the documents that McKelvey says will go before the grand jury in its

investigation of the beating given Van Horne for alleged conduct that did not meet with approval of a portion of the community. A Neffs resident is said to be mentioned prominently in connection with the mystery circle that is said to include persons formerly prominent in Klan activities.

McKelvey declares that, in his opinion, the attack on Van Horne is convincing proof that a Night Rider organization is active in the county. Sheriff Ford Moore, who has had a part in question-

ing persons connected with the investigation, deploras such activity, he stated yesterday. As yet no arrests have been made but interest in the incident was heightened yesterday by the official statement that one of the parties whose connection with the events of last Wednesday is being investigated had left town.

Women in Party?

Sheriff Moore scouted courthouse rumors that women were members of the party that flogged Van Horne. Names of two were mentioned as likely to fig-

ure in the grand jury investigation and evidence to show were away from their respective homes Wednesday night is to be in the hands of officials.

The case to be investigated by the Belmont county grand jury is not the first of the kind in recent years. Only last fall girls and a man were taken from an auto and as one fled other two were marched to a near Barton and threatened disaster. A Barton mine man, tried for alleged participation in the party, was acquitted quickly by a jury in common pleas court.

At Morristown a colored allegedly friendly with a woman, was hustled to Barton and put on a train for southland while a girl residing that community was the victim of a tarring party which developed while she was riding along National road.

Woodsfield Man Kidnaped

A Woodsfield resident engaged in the practice of one of the professions that is rated as an "easy" one is said to have been ordered to leave the county, being kidnaped in the county capital at his front door and taken to a place in Belmont county from where he was started on a trip to the state that is said to have been his destination.

The county is interested in the case not only from the criminal angle but because Van Horne sued for \$1,000 damages yesterday under the Ohio mob law claims to have recognized voice of one of the hooded g-

PACKAGE BY MAIL REVEALS NIGHT RIDERS DATA ACCORDING TO BELMONT PROSECUTOR

The United States mail today placed in the hands of Prosecutor George McKelvey of Belmont county, a package of evidence in connection with the Night Riding activities of an alleged robed and masked band in the Eastern Ohio district. This evidence, the prosecutor said, in his office at St. Clairsville, is more good fortune than the state had expected.

It purports to show that a Night Riders organization existed in Belmont county and that its former members may have had a part in the whipping of H. L. "Pete" Van Horn, St. Clairsville painter on the Maynard highway last Wednesday night and in other

operations of this type in Eastern Ohio which includes the Barton case of a year ago, when a young man was threatened with hanging; the tarring of a Morristown girl and the chasing from town of a Negro.

The packet now in the hands of the prosecutor includes the photo of a Bellaire physician and a St. Clairsville woman, attired in the garb of the Ku Klux Klan and another photo of badges issued to officers of the organization by a Columbus detective agency. Commissions from the same agency are exhibited and these men, it is charged, served as supposed officers of the law.

Prosecutor McKelvey today de-

clared one St. Clairsville man had left town yesterday but that he could be located when needed for questioning. The Van Horn case will go to the grand jury when it meets next Tuesday. McKelvey said today but had nothing to reveal as to the names of persons under suspicion in the whipping of the St. Clairsville painter.

One report which had gained some strength and which had women in the party which whipped Van Horn after removing him from his auto on the Maynard highway, is scouted by Sheriff Ford Moore who has been investigating the matter and declares no evidence has been found to support this contention.

44-111-1

Indef. The Hon. McKelvey

GRIDER

Remnants